Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 205991
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE: R C BARKLEY:TEXT FROM WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED BY NEA: N VELIOTES
NEA/RA: J V MONTVILLE
S/S-O:TMARTIN
----------094374 150330Z /14
O 150229Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 205991

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, GW, XF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ASAP. THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO SIGNED ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW. GUIDANCE AND TALKING POINTS TO BE USED, IF NECESSARY, WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR HELMUT,

I WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME THOUGHTS ON THE FORTHCOMING MIDDLE EAST MEETING AT CAMP DAVID.
WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT HAVE BOTH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE INVITATION TO MEET WITH ME NEXT MONTH IN A MAJOR NEW EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE PURPOSELY NOT SET A FIXED DURATION FOR THE TALKS,
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SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 6, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO ALLOW AS MUCH TIME AS IS NEEDED FOR OUR EFFORTS TO SUCCEED. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH ALL PARTIES ARE APPROACHING THIS MEETING.
I EXTENDED THIS INVITATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE

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MIDDLE EAST. NINE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OPENED SIGNIFICANT NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE HISTORIC MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM AND IN ISMAILIA. THE SIDES HAVE MADE PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THEM AT THIS TIME, BUT RECENTLY, AS YOU ARE AWARE, AN IMPASSE WAS THREATENED. I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD AN IMPASSE, SINCE THE POSITIONS WOULD THEN HARDEN AND THE ATMOSPHERE DETERIORATE TO THE POINT WHERE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE COULD WELL BECOME ANOTHER OF THE LOST OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE MARKED THE HISTORY OF THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT.

THE OBJECTIVE AT THE CAMP DAVID MEETING WILL REMAIN AS IT HAS BEEN DEFINED BY THE TWO SIDES THEMSELVES IN NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR: TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON A FRAMEWORK, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, THAT WOULD ALLOW STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREED GOAL OF A STABLE, JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. SUCH AN AGREED FRAMEWORK MIGHT HELP TO BRING OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT INTO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

OUR EXPERIENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE AND PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS THIS PAST YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT

ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUES UNLESS THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THEMSELVES CAN BE ENGAGED IN A DIRECT EXCHANGE. THIS WAS ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED ME TO THE DECISION TO EXTEND INVITATIONS TO THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET WITH ME AT CAMP DAVID. OUR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHICH CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE NEGOTIATORS ON THE KEY ISSUES. I PLAN TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ACHIEVE THE PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE ARE ALL SEARCHING.

AS WE MOVE INTO THIS CRUCIAL NEW PHASE OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU MY REASONS FOR TAKING THIS STEP AND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH. I KNOW YOU WILL AGREE WITH MY SENSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE TALKS, WHICH HOLD THE PROSPECT OF A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, DESPITE THE REAL DIFFICULTIES. I HOPE THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND FULL SUPPORT IN THE TASK ON WHICH WE ARE EMBARKING.

WITH MY BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT
CHRISTOPHER

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